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### Examiner's Amendment and Comments

1. The response and Preliminary Amendment filed 13 November 2007 to Election requirement in Office Action mailed 13 September 2007 is acknowledged and entered.

### Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest art are:

- ⊙ U.S. Patent 4,830,708 issued 16 May 1989 to Paice et al.  
Paice et al., while teaching a method to bleach wood pulp in a reaction mixture comprising a hydrogen peroxide dependent lignin peroxidase along with veratryl alcohol and hydrogen peroxide is implied. In said reaction veratryl alcohol is an electron carrier. However, the distinguishing property of instantly claimed invention is a method of lightening a skin region or hair (Column 1, Lines 45-67);
- ⊙ U.S. Patent Application Publication (i.e., PGPB) 2002/0115170 A1 by Yaver et al.  
Yaver et al. also teach that peroxidase of their invention are applicable for *in situ* depolymerization of lignin in Kraft pulp to produce pulp with lower lignin content, i.e., pulp bleaching (Page 14, Column 2, Paragraph 0176; Page 15, Column 1, Paragraph 0177 and Claims 40-41);
- ⊙ U.S. Patent 7,282,067 B2 issued 16 October 2007 to Burgaud et al. This invention distinguishes over the instantly claimed invention, because it is a process (Claim 24) to dye human hair and keratin fibers with an alcohol oxidase enzyme (i.e., E.C. 1.1.1.13). Said enzyme class is completely different than the enzyme class for peroxidase (i.e., E.C.1.11.1.13-1.11.1.16);
- ⊙ Japanese Patent 02072875 issued 13 March 1990 describing application of a composition comprising lignin peroxidase, hydrogen peroxide and veratryl alcohol to bleach pulp (English Abstract, Lines 1-2 and 7).

Thus, none of the cited references either separately or in combination teach a method to lighten skin region or hair of a subject. Consequently, the claimed invention is neither anticipated, nor is obvious.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
4. Claims 1 and 3-11 are allowed.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kailash C. Srivastava whose telephone number is (571) 272-0923. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. (Eastern Standard or Daylight Savings Time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Jon Weber can be reached at (571)-272-0925 Monday through Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (i.e., PAIR) system. Status information for the published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (i.e., EBC) at: (866)-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dr. Kailash C Srivastava/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1657  
Kailash C. Srivastava, Ph.D.  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1657  
(571) 272-0923

14 February 2008

/Jon P Weber/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1657